Procurement of wheat

5011. DR. M. N. DAS :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to prepare itself to buy almost 21 million tonnes of wheat from the farmers in the new procurement season which would be of one million more than the last year;

(b) if so, whether this would result in continuation of plenty of wheat in official stock;

(c) the quantity of wheat procured so far and from which States;

(d) whether it would be sufficient to meet the requirements; and

(e) to what extent Government are in a position to export wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) Under the open ended procurement policy, the Government is committed to procure all the wheat conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms offered for sale at MSP at specified procurement centres. It had been estimated that about 208 lakh tonnes of wheat will be procured in the current Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2003-04 and has made necessary arrangements for the same.

(b) With the anticipated level of procurement in the current RMS the stocks of wheat in the Central Pool will continue to be above the buffer norms.

(c) As on 2-5-2003 a total quantity of 132.46 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured from the States of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A decision to export rice and wheat from the Central Pool Stocks is taken depending on the overall situation. The Government has allowed export of

wheat and wheat products without quantitative restrictions subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool shall not be lower than the buffer stock of 143 lakh tonnes of wheat at any point of time.

Norms and schemes for foodgrains allocation

5012. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Governments, during the year 2003, have demanded changes in the norms and schemes for foodgrains allocation;

(b) whether any representations were submitted to the competent authority stating that due to restrictions placed in foodgrains allocation, a large number of families Below Poverty Line (BPL) can't be covered under the schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The allocation of foodgrains to all the States is made @ 35 kg. per family per month for all the categories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The number of BPL families has been fixed for each State on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission and population projections of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000. The basis of allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS has been applied uniformly to all the States/UTs without exception and cannot be changed in isolation for a particular State/UT. Hence requests for change in allocation on the basis of actual number of BPL families identified/Ration Cards issued by the State Governments being different from that of the Planning Commission or any other basis have not been acceded to.

Godowns in foreign countries

†5013. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Warehousing Corporation is going to build godowns in foreign countries for storing foodgrains;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.